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EXAMINER

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ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to the Amendment filed 10/02/2008.

Response to Arguments

2. Claims 1 – 27, 29 – 36 and 38 – 47 are pending in this Office Action. After a further search and a thorough examination of the present application, claims 1 – 27, 29 – 36 and 38 – 47 remain rejected.
3. Applicant's arguments filed with respect to claims 1 – 27, 29 – 36 and 38 – 47 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that there is no teaching in Koskas of bitmap operation having a user-specified operand and bitmap values in user-specified fields.

In response to Applicant's argument, the Examiner submits that Koskas teaches bitmap operation having a user-specified operand and bitmap values in user-specified fields in column 9 lines 26 – 34 and in detail in column 10 lines 46 – 67 and column 11 lines 1 – 50 where the bitmap operations are described and also how these are combined with user specified operands. Also see column 26 lines 1 – 18.

Hence, Applicant's arguments do not distinguish the claimed invention over the prior art of record. In light of the foregoing arguments, the 102 rejections are sustained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Art Unit: 2166

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

5. Claims 22 – 27, 29 – 35 and 44 – 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

6. Claims 22 and 44 recite claiming a bitmap value which is a number/data structure, this does not fall under statutory subject categories.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claims 1 – 27, 29 – 36 and 38 – 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Elie Ouzi Koskas ('Koskas' herein after) (US 6,633,883 B2).

With respect to claim 1.

Koskas discloses a database management system including a processor and persistent storage, the processor executing code for the database management system and the persistent storage containing database objects that are manipulated by the processor when executing the code for the database management system, the

Art Unit: 2166

database management system having the improvement comprising: database objects in the persistent storage that are bitmap values, a bitmap value having a representation of a bitstring wherein set bits specify a set of objects whose definitions are built into the database management system, bitmap operations implemented in the code for the database system, a bitmap operation having user specified operands which is a bitmap values and/or set of objects (Figures 10 A-H, column 9 lines 26 – 34, column 10 lines 46 – 67 and column 11 lines 1 – 20).

With respect to claim 2.

Koskas discloses the database management system set forth in claim 1 wherein the bitmap operations comprise at least: a set-to-bitmap operation wherein a bitmap value is derived from a set of the objects specified in an operand (column 10 lines 46 – 67 and column 11 lines 22 – 50).

With respect to claim 3.

Koskas discloses the database management system set forth in claim 2 wherein: the derived bitmap value is a new bitmap value that specifies the objects in the specified set (column 10 lines 46 – 67 and column 11 lines 22 – 50).

With respect to claim 4.

Koskas discloses the database management system set forth in claim 2 wherein: the derived bitmap value is a preexisting bitmap value which now further specifies the

Art Unit: 2166

objects in the specified set (column 10 lines 46 – 67 and column 11 lines 22 – 50).

With respect to claim 5.

Koskas discloses the database management system set forth in claim 2 wherein: the derived bitmap value is a preexisting bitmap value which now no longer specifies any objects in the specified set (column 10 lines 46 – 67 and column 11 lines 22 – 50).

With respect to claim 6.

Koskas discloses the database management system set forth in claim 1 wherein the bitmap operations comprise at least: a bitmap-to-set operation wherein the set of objects specified in a bitmap value specified in an operand is derived from the specified bitmap value (column 10 lines 46 – 67, column 11 lines 22 – 50 and column 13 lines 60 – 65).

With respect to claim 7.

Koskas discloses the database management system set forth in claim 1 wherein the bitmap operations comprise at least: a bitmap-to-count operation wherein the number of the objects in the set specified in a bitmap value specified in an operand is derived from the specified bitmap value (column 10 lines 49 – 67 and column 11 lines 1 – 20).

With respect to claim 8.

Art Unit: 2166

Koskas discloses the database management system set forth in claim 1 wherein the bitmap operations comprise at least: an existence operation wherein a value representing the logical value TRUE is returned when a object specified in an operand belongs to the set of the objects represented by a bitmap value specified in another operand (column 11 lines 1 – 50).

With respect to claim 9.

Koskas discloses the database management system set forth in claim 1 wherein the bitmap operations comprise at least: a logical operation on a first bitstring from a first bitmap value and a second bitstring from a second bitmap value specified in another operand (column 11 lines 1 – 50).

With respect to claim 10.

Koskas discloses the database management system set forth in claim 1 wherein the bitmap operations comprise at least: a comparison operation on a first bitmap value specified in an operand and a second bitmap value specified in another operand wherein a value representing the logical value TRUE is returned when the first bitmap value and the second bitmap value specify the same set of objects (column 11 lines 1 – 50).

With respect to claim 11.

Art Unit: 2166

Koskas discloses the database management system set forth in claim 1 wherein: the bitmap values include settable bitmap values; and the bitmap operations comprise at least an assignment operation which sets a target settable bitmap value specified in an operand from a source bitmap value specified in another operand (column 10 lines 49 – 67 and column 11 lines 1 – 50).

With respect to claim 12.

Koskas discloses the database management system set forth in claim 1 wherein: the bitmap values include bitmap values that are persistent in the database management system (figures 10 A-H, column 9 lines 26 – 34 and column 10 lines 49 – 67).

With respect to claim 13.

Koskas discloses the database management system set forth in claim 12 wherein: the persistent bitmap values include bitmap values in user-specified fields of tables of the database management system (figures 10 A-H, column 9 lines 26 – 34 and column 10 lines 49 – 67).

With respect to claim 14.

Koskas discloses the database management system set forth in claim 1 wherein: the bitstring in the bitmap value is compressed (column 15 lines 7 – 15).

With respect to claim 15.

Koskas discloses the database management system set forth in claim 1 wherein: the objects are identifiers for other objects that exist in the database management system (figures 10 A-H, column 9 lines 26 – 34 and column 10 lines 49 – 67).

With respect to claim 16.

Koskas discloses the database management system set forth in claim 15 wherein: the identifiers for the other objects are row identifiers of rows in the database management system (figures 10 A-H, column 9 lines 26 – 34 and column 10 lines 49 – 67).

With respect to claim 17.

Koskas discloses the database management system set forth in claim 16 wherein: the row identifiers are row identifiers returned by a user-defined query executed in the database management system (figures 10 A-H, column 9 lines 26 – 34 and column 10 lines 49 – 67).

With respect to claim 18.

Koskas discloses the database management system set forth in claim 17 wherein: the query returns a row identifier when a field in the row has an attribute specified in the query, whereby the bitmap value represents the set of fields having the

Art Unit: 2166

specified attribute (column 9 lines 26 – 34, column 10 lines 46 – 67 and column 11 lines 1 – 20).

With respect to claim 19.

Koskas discloses the database management system set forth in claim 1 wherein: the objects are identifiers for other objects that exist outside the database management system (column 9 lines 26 – 34, column 10 lines 46 – 67 and column 11 lines 1 – 20).

With respect to claim 20.

Koskas discloses the database management system set forth in claim 19 wherein: the identifiers for objects that exist outside the database management system are electronic product codes for product items (column 10 lines 46 – 67 and column 11 lines 1 – 20).

With respect to claim 21.

Koskas discloses the data storage device, the data storage device being characterized in that: the data storage device contains code which, when executed in a computer system, implements the database management system set forth in claim 1 (Figures 10 A-H, column 9 lines 26 – 34, column 10 lines 46 – 67 and column 11 lines 1 – 20).

With respect to claim 22.

Art Unit: 2166

Koskas discloses the bitmap value employed in a database management system, the bitmap value representing a first subset of a second subset of objects that are defined in the database management system and the bitmap value comprising: a mapping specifier that maps a string of bits to the second subset; and a representation of the string of bits wherein a bit is set in the represented string of bits when the member of the second subset that is mapped to the bit belongs to the first subset and database management system providing at least a first operation which permit users of the database system to specify the mapping of the string of buts to the second subset and a second operation which permits users to directly specify setting bits of the string of bits that correspond to the first subset (Figures 10 A-H, column 9 lines 26 – 34, column 10 lines 46 – 67 and column 11 lines 1 – 20).

With respect to claim 23.

Koskas discloses the bitmap value set forth in claim 22 wherein: the second set is ordered (column 11 lines 1 – 20).

With respect to claim 24.

Koskas discloses the bitmap value set forth in claim 23 wherein: the order of the objects corresponds to values of the objects; the mapping specifier specifies the mapping by specifying one or more ranges of the values of the objects to which the string of bits is mapped; and the representation of the string of bits represents strings of bits corresponding to the ranges (column 10 lines 46 – 67 and column 11 lines 1 – 20).

With respect to claim 25.

Koskas discloses the bitmap value set forth in claim 24 wherein: the mapping specifier specifies the range of the values by specifying a start value and an end value (Figures 10 A-H, column 9 lines 26 – 34 and column 10 lines 46 – 67).

With respect to claim 26.

Koskas discloses the bitmap value set forth in claim 24 wherein: the values include a prefix which determines a range of the values; and the mapping specifier specifies the range of the values by specifying the prefix for the range (Figures 10 A-H, column 9 lines 26 – 34 and column 10 lines 46 – 67).

With respect to claim 27.

Koskas discloses the bitmap value set forth in claim 26 wherein: the mapping specifier further specifies the range of the values by using a start value and an end value to specify one or more subranges of the range specified by the prefix (column 10 lines 46 – 67 and column 11 lines 22 – 50).

With respect to claim 29.

Koskas discloses the bitmap value set forth in claim 28 wherein: the objects are electronic product codes (column 10 lines 46 – 67 and column 11 lines 22 – 50).

With respect to claim 30.

Koskas discloses the bitmap value set forth in claim 22 wherein: there is a plurality of the bitmap values in the database management system; and certain of the bitmap values are persistent in the database management system (column 10 lines 46 – 67, column 11 lines 22 – 50 and column 13 lines 60 – 65).

With respect to claim 31.

Koskas discloses the bitmap values set forth in claim 30 wherein: the persistent bitmap values include bitmap values in user-specified fields of tables of the database management system (column 10 lines 46 – 67 and column 11 lines 22 – 50).

With respect to claim 32.

Koskas discloses the bitmap value set forth in claim 22 wherein: the representation of the bitstring is a compressed representation thereof (column 15 lines 7 – 15).

With respect to claim 33.

Koskas discloses the bitmap value set forth in claim 22 wherein: there is a plurality of the bitmap values in the database management system; and the database management system provides further bitmap operations on the bitmap values (column 10 lines 46 – 67, column 11 lines 22 – 50 and column 13 lines 60 – 65).

With respect to claim 34.

Koskas discloses the bitmap value set forth in claim 33 wherein: certain of the bitmap operations alter the range specifier and the representation of the bitstring as required to map the represented string of bits to a second subset of the second set that is required for the operation (column 10 lines 46 – 67, column 11 lines 22 – 50 and column 13 lines 60 – 65).

With respect to claim 35.

Koskas discloses the data storage device, the data storage device being characterized in that: the data storage device contains code which, when executed in a computer system, implements the bitmap value set forth in claim 22 (Figures 10 A-H, column 9 lines 26 – 34, column 10 lines 46 – 67 and column 11 lines 1 – 20).

With respect to claim 36.

Koskas discloses the method employed in a database system of making a bitmap value that represents a first subset of a second subset of objects that are defined in the database management system, the method comprising the steps performed in the database system of: performing a first operation provided by the database system to users of the system, the first operation mapping a bitstring that is represented in the bitmap value onto the second subset and performing a second operation, provided by the database system to users of the system the second

Art Unit: 2166

operation setting the bits in the bitstring that correspond to the first subset (Figures 10 A-H, column 9 lines 26 – 34, column 10 lines 46 – 67 and column 11 lines 1 – 20).

With respect to claim 38.

Koskas discloses the method set forth in claim 37 wherein: the objects are electronic product codes (column 10 lines 46 – 67 and column 11 lines 22 – 50).

With respect to claim 39.

Koskas discloses the method set forth in claim 36 wherein the objects are ordered and the step performing the first operation comprises the steps of: making a range specifier that specifies a range of the objects; and mapping the bits in the bitstring to the specified range (column 10 lines 46 – 67, column 11 lines 22 – 50 and column 13 lines 60 – 65).

With respect to claim 40.

Koskas discloses the method set forth in claim 39 wherein the step of making a range specifier includes the step of: making a start value and an end value which together specify the range (column 11 lines 1 – 50).

With respect to claim 41.

Koskas discloses the method set forth in claim 39 wherein the step of making a range specifier includes the step of making a prefix value which specifies the range.

With respect to claim 42.

Koskas discloses the method set forth in claim 36 further comprising the step of: compressing the bitstring (column 15 lines 7 – 15).

With respect to claim 43.

Koskas discloses the data storage device, the data storage device being characterized in that: the data storage device contains code which, when executed in a computer system, implements the method set forth in claim 36 (Figures 10 A-H, column 9 lines 26 – 34, column 10 lines 46 – 67 and column 11 lines 1 – 20).

With respect to claim 44.

Koskas discloses the bitmap value employed in a database management system to represent a first subset of the row identifiers defined in the database management system, the bitmap value comprising: a mapping specifier that maps a string of bits to a second subset of the set of row identifiers, the second subset including the first subset; and a representation of the string of bits wherein a bit is set in the represented string of bits when the member of the second subset that is mapped to the bit corresponds to a member of the first subset, the database management system providing at least a first operation which permits users of the database system to directly specify the mapping of the string of bits to the second subset and a second operation that permits users of the database system to directly specify setting bits of the string of bits that correspond to

Art Unit: 2166

the first subset; and the first subset is returned by a user-defined query executed by the database management system (Figures 10 A-H, column 9 lines 26 – 34, column 10 lines 46 – 67 and column 11 lines 1 – 20).

With respect to claim 45.

Koskas discloses the bitmap value set forth in claim 44 wherein: the first operation dynamically alters the mapping specifier such that the string of bits is mapped to a second subset includes the first subset (figures 10 A-H, column 9 lines 26 – 34 and column 10 lines 49 – 67).

With respect to claim 46.

Koskas discloses the bitmap value set forth in claim 44 wherein: the first subset is returned by a query which returns a row identifier when a field identified by the row identifier has an attribute specified in the query, whereby the bitmap value represents the set of fields whose values have the specified attribute (figures 10 A-H, column 9 lines 26 – 34 and column 10 lines 49 – 67).

With respect to claim 47.

Koskas discloses the data storage device, the data storage device being characterized in that: the data storage device contains code which, when executed in a computer system, implements the method set forth in claim 44 (Figures 10 A-H, column 9 lines 26 – 34, column 10 lines 46 – 67 and column 11 lines 1 – 20).

Conclusion

9. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Navneet K. Ahluwalia whose telephone number is 571-272-5636.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alam T. Hosain can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Navneet K. Ahluwalia/
Examiner, Art Unit 2166

Dated: 12/04/2008

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